

Message Text

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60

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 NEA-14 AF-10 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01

/159 W

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R 082057Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3419

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 1398

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, CY, CA

SUBJECT: UNFICYP REDUCTIONS.

REF : STATE 91875

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED PROSPECTS FOR FURTHER UNFICYP REDUCTIONS WITH WORKING LEVEL OFFICIAL (GREEN) IN EXTAFF DEFENSE RELATIONS DIVISION. GREEN SAID EXTAFF AGREES IN PRINCIPLE WITH DESIRABILITY OF CONTINUING MOMENTUM OF REDUCTIONS AND PUTTING UNFICYP ON SOUND FINANCIAL BASIS, BUT HAS STRONG RESERVATIONS AS TO WHETHER DETAILED DISCUSSIONS OF REDUCTIONS WOULD BE APPROPRIATE AT THIS TIME. GREEN NOTED THAT CANADA PAYS ITS OWN WAY IN UNFICYP, AND WOULD OBVIOUSLY WISH SAVE FUNDS, BUT CAN ALSO TAKE SOMEWHAT MORE DETACHED VIEW OF
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UNFICYP DEFICITS.

2. CANADIAN RESERVATIONS BASED ON TWO POINTS. FIRST, DEPARTMENT NATIONAL DEFENSE (DND) WISHES MAINTAIN INTEGRITY OF CANADIAN UNIT (NOW 488 MEN) FOR TRAINING AND ORGANIZATIONAL PURPOSES. CANADA CAN NOW TRAIN AND SEND AN ENTIRE UNIT FROM ONE REGIMENT, BUT IF FORCE WERE SUBSTANTIALLY FURTHER REDUCED, CONTINGENT WOULD HAVE TO BE DRAWN FROM SEVERAL REGIMENTS, MAKING ORGANIZATION AND TRAINING MORE DIFFICULT AND POSSIBLY MORE EXPENSIVE. SECOND, EXTAFF AND DND ARE CONCERNED ABOUT SECURITY OF THE CONTINGENT. EMBOFF POINTED OUT US VIEW THAT INCIDENCE OF INTERCOMMUNAL VIOLENCE BORE LITTLE OR NO RELATION TO SIZE OF FORCE. GREEN SAID THAT COMMANDER OF UNFICYP HAD REPORTED INCREASING NOTE OF STRIDENCY IN RELATIONS BETWEEN COMMUNITIES ON THE ISLAND, AND EXTAFF AWARE OF SIMILAR STRAINS BETWEEN ANKARA AND ATHENS, THOUGH NOT NECESSARILY RELATED TO CYPRUS. EXTAFF IS UNCERTAIN ABOUT POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF FURTHER REDUCTIONS ON CYPRIOT COMMUNITIES, ESPECIALLY TURKISH. REACTION MIGHT BE INCREASED SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY, AS SUGGESTED REFTEL, BUT TURKISH COMMUNITY MIGHT ALSO FEEL VULNERABLE, DIG IN, AND SEEK INCREASED PROCUREMENT OF ARMS. EXTAFF WOULD PREFER TO EVALUATE EFFECTS OF PHASES I AND II BEFORE ATTEMPTING REACH AGREEMENT ON PHASE III.

3. EXTAFF ALSO DUBIOUS WHETHER CHANGE TO OBSERVER/MEDIATOR FORCE COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT NEW SC MANDATE, INVOLVING DIFFICULT AND BITTER DEBATE IN SC, WHICH CANADA WOULD MUCH PREFER TO AVOID.

4. EMBASSY DOES NOT BELIEVE GOC INTENDS TO STONEWALL ON THIS ISSUE. EXTAFF UNDERSECRETARY RITCHIE HAS TOLD DCM THAT "YOU WILL HAVE NOTROUBLE WITH US" IN PRESSING FOR FURTHER REDUCTIONS. GOC WILL AGREE IN PRINCIPLE TO DESIRABILITY OF EVENTUAL PHASE III REDUCTIONS. IT DOUBTFUL, HOWEVER, THAT GOC WILL WISH DISCUSS REDUCTIONS IN ANY DETAIL AT TROOP CONTRIBUTORS' MEETING. IN THIS CONNECTION, EMBASSY NOTES THAT RENEWAL OR CHANGE IN CANADIAN UNFICYP CONTINGENT REQUIRES CABINET APPROVAL. SINCE DISSOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT AND SUBSEQUENT ELECTIONS APPEAR IMMINENT, CABINET MAY NOT BE IN POSITION TAKE MATTER UNDER SERIOUS ADVISEMENT IN JUNE OTHER
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THAN ROUTINELY TO RENEW CANADIAN CONTRIBUTION.
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Message Attributes

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